

UNDERGROUND WINTER ALERT



Proper Gas Tests



Fire Extinguisher Training

- *A drop in barometric pressure can increase the release of methane in underground coal mines. Always maintain adequate mine ventilation and make frequent checks for methane and proper air flow.*
- *Know your mine's ventilation plan. Properly maintain methane detection devices. Communicate changing mine conditions to one another during each shift and to the oncoming shift.*
- *Properly maintain and check bleeder systems to ventilate abandoned areas and remove dangerous gases.*
- *Control coal dust with frequent and liberal applications of rock dust. Maintain water sprays and other coal dust suppression devices in good working condition.*
- *Make frequent visual and sound checks of mine roof during each shift. Never travel under unsupported roof.*
- *Know your escapeways and mine emergency procedures. Always know where your self-contained self-rescuer is located. Now is a good time to conduct refresher training in the proper donning of your self-contained self-rescuer.*
- *Temperature and humidity changes in the winter months cause the interior of mines to become drier and create a greater potential for fires. Always know the exact location of fire fighting equipment and maintain such equipment in proper operating condition.*

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For additional information or assistance, contact the
Division of Mines, Big Stone Gap (276) 523-8227
or Keen Mountain Field Office (276) 498-4533



SURFACE WINTER ALERT



WEAR PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT WHEN NEAR HIGHWALLS

- *Freezing and thawing conditions affect highwall stability. Watch for loose and falling rocks when working near highwalls. Never position yourself between equipment and highwalls.*
- *Frost, ice, snow and mud on steps and catwalks increase slip and fall hazards. Use caution when traveling elevated walkways and mounting and dismounting equipment. Always use handrails.*
- *Keep windshields, windows, and mirrors on all mobile equipment free of frost, ice, snow and mud to ensure clear line of vision.*
- *Icy and muddy conditions increase braking time and distance needed to control heavy mobile equipment. Equipment operators should think ahead when operating in these conditions. Remember: Always wear seatbelts when equipment is in motion.*
- *Use caution when troubleshooting batteries and jump-starting equipment. Battery problems are common during winter weather. When jump starting equipment be sure to position yourself safely, use proper electrical connections and adequate size boosting cables, and wear proper protective equipment (gloves, safety glasses, etc.).*
- *Hypothermia slows reaction time and can kill. Dress for the weather, but watch heavy clothing that may interfere with your mobility, vision or hearing. Also watch bulky clothing around electric heaters, open flames, and machinery.*



KNOW WHERE GAS WELLS AND LINES ARE LOCATED

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